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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,846	10/31/2003	Farid Bruce Khalili	Ve 019	8064
7:	590 03/01/2006		EXAMINER	
LAWRENCE CRUZ		PELLEGRINO, BRIAN E		
12 GOOD HILL RD. BETHEL, CT 06801			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
- ,			3738	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Endeations of time may be available under the provision of 37 CFR 1.70(e). In or event, may a reply be interly field after CIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication of 37 CFR 1.70(e). In or event, may a reply be interly field after CIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Failine to reply which the act or extended period for reply with by that cause the application become ABANDADE (03 U.S. C. § 13). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any sented pater than adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.70(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 31 October 2003. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) is/are explicated to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 11) An or request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgm		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Specie I: Figs. 1-7,15.

Specie II: Figs. 8-14.

The species are independent or distinct because in one embodiment the prosthesis moves in a pivotal manner and in another embodiment the prosthesis moves in a sliding manner.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1,11,12 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after

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the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.

MPEP § 809.02(a).

A telephone call was made to Lawrence Cruz on 2/23/06 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian E. Pellegrino whose telephone number is 571-272-4756. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:30am-4pm) 2nd F (7:30-4pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC3700, AU 3738

BRIAN E. PELLEGRINO PRIMARY EXAMINER

Buran & Pellegrino